

2016 ElderACE Leadership Award



**Sharon Olson, Aging & Disability Resources
Division Manager, ADRC of Jefferson County**

A leader in the development of the Jefferson County Care Transitions Coalition, Sharon Olson worked with the care transition team to create the strong foundation needed to engage people in the coalition's primary goal: to reduce hospital readmissions. Data showed 45% of hospital readmissions were for aspiration pneumonia and 50% of those individuals came from assisted living facilities.

The Care Transitions Coalition decided to survey assisted living facilities to determine what they might need in terms of education and further training to address the issue. Sharon volunteered to develop the survey, summarize the results and ensure the resulting program was effectively implemented. She even hand-delivered program materials in order to foster collaborative relationships.

The result is a train-the-trainer program featuring the "Safe Swallowing Reference Guide," developed from a team of professionals. Sharon's leadership extended to involvement with the initial trainings and working with providers to incorporate their feedback. She took every opportunity to ensure the program was available to all, including posting the materials on the ADRC website for anyone to use.

In her work with the Jefferson County Care Transitions Coalition, Sharon brought together a diverse group that provided critical information to support the health and well-being of older adults in Jefferson County and beyond.

Please join me in congratulating the 2016 ElderACE Leadership Award winner-Sharon Olson!!!